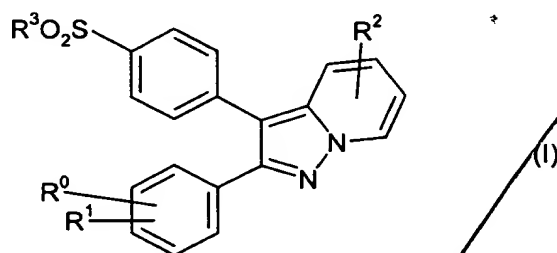


In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 11-12 and 15-16. Please amend the claims as follows. The following clean claims reflect the amendments being made herein. Please add new claims 17-35. The following is a complete set of claims as pending after the instant amendment. For convenience, a marked-up copy of the amended claims is attached hereto.

1. (Amended) Compounds of formula (I)



and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof wherein

R⁰ and R¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, C₁-6alkyl, C₁-6alkoxy, and C₁-6alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

R² is selected from the group consisting of H, C₁-6alkyl, C₁-6alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, C₁-6alkoxy, C₁-6hydroxyalkyl, SC₁-6alkyl, C(O)H, C(O)C₁-6alkyl, C₁-6alkylsulphonyl, and C₁-6alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and

R³ is C₁-6alkyl or NH₂.

2. (Amended) Compounds as claimed in claim 1 wherein R⁰ and R¹ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, C₁-6alkyl, and C₁-6alkoxy; R² is C₁-3alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and R³ is C₁-3alkyl or NH₂.

3. (Amended) Compounds as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^0 and R^1 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, F, Cl, C_{1-3} alkyl, and C_{1-3} alkoxy; R^2 is C_{1-3} alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and R^3 is methyl or NH_2 .

4. (Amended) Compounds as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^0 is selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, C_{1-3} alkyl and C_{1-3} alkoxy; R^1 is H; R^2 is C_{1-3} alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and R^3 is methyl or NH_2 .

5. (Amended) Compounds as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^0 is at the 3- or 4- position of the phenyl ring; and R^2 is at the 6- position of the pyridine ring.

6. (Amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

4-[2-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

2-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

4-[2-(4-ethoxy-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

4-(2-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl)-benzenesulfonamide;

3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-2-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

4-[2-(4-methyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof.

7. (Amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:
- N-acetyl-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- N-acetyl-4-[2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- N-acetyl-4-[2-phenyl-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- sodium salt of N-acetyl-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- 4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-(2-methoxyacetyl)benzenesulfonamide;
- 4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-propionylbenzenesulfonamide;
- 4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-isobutyrylbenzenesulfonamide;
- N-benzoyl-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- methyl 4-[(4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl)sulfonylamino]-4-oxobutanoate;
- 4-[(4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl)sulfonylamino]-4-oxobutanoic acid;
- 4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-pentanoylbenzenesulfonamide;
- 2-[(4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl)sulfonylamino]-2-oxoethyl acetate;
- N-acetyl-4-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- N-(2-chloroacetyl)-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
- N-[2-(diethylamino)acetyl]-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

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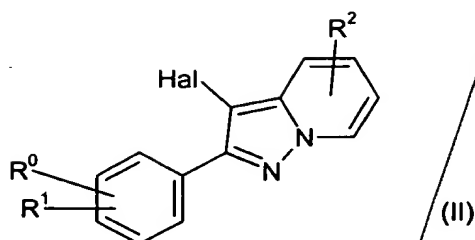
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methyl {4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonylcarbamate; and
tert-butyl {4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonylcarbamate.

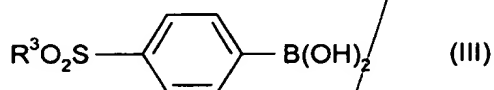
8. (Amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:
4-[6-chloro-2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
6-chloro-2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
4-[6-methyl-2-phenyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
4-[2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
4-[2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
6-methyl-2-phenyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof.

9. (Amended) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) reacting a compound of formula (II)



or a protected derivative thereof, with a compound of formula (III)



or a protected derivative thereof to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

10. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof as claimed in claim 1 in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.

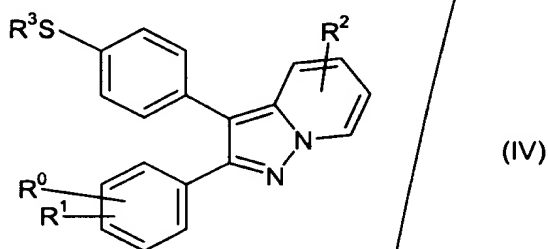
13. (Amended) A method of treating an animal subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by selective inhibition of COX-2 which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative as claimed in claim 1.

14. (Amended) A method of treating an animal subject suffering from an inflammatory disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof as claimed in claim 1.

17. (New) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^0 is selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, methyl and ethoxy; R^1 is H; R^2 is trifluoromethyl; and R^3 is methyl or NH_2 .

18. (New) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) where R^3 represents C_{1-4} alkyl, reacting a compound of formula (IV)

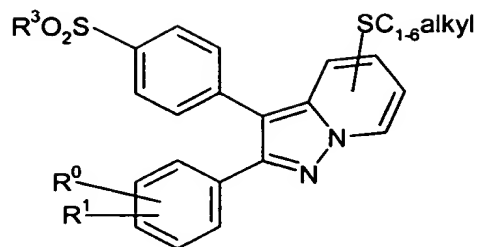


or a protected derivative thereof with an oxidising agent to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

19. (New) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) where R^2 is C_{1-6} alkylsulphonyl, oxidising a compound of formula (V)

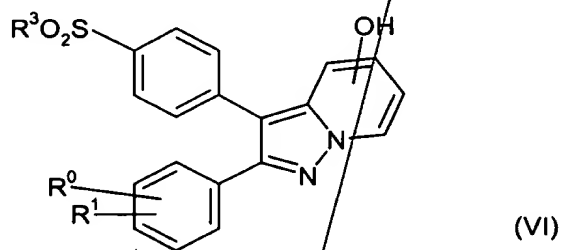


or a protected derivative thereof to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

20. (New) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) where R² is C₁₋₆alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, reacting a alcohol of formula (VI)

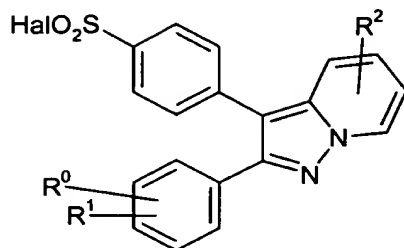


or a protected derivative thereof with a halofluoroalkane to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

21. (New) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

- (A) where R^3 is NH_2 , reacting a compound of formula (X)



(X)

with a source of ammonia under conventional conditions to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

- (B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

22. (New) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

- (A) interconverting a compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I); and

- (B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

23. (New) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

- (A) deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

24. (New) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a human subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by selective inhibition of COX-2 which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof as claimed in claim 1.

25. (New) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a human subject suffering from an inflammatory disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof as claimed in claim 1.

26. (New) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of conditions and diseases selected from the group consisting of pain, fever and inflammation mediated by selective inhibition of COX-2, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof as claimed in claim 1.

27. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein said conditions and diseases are selected from the group consisting of rheumatic fever, symptoms associated with influenza or other viral infections, lower back pain, neck pain, headache, toothache, sprains, strains, myositis, neuropathic pain, synovitis, arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, degenerative joint diseases, osteoarthritis, gout, ankylosing spondylitis, tendinitis, bursitis, psoriasis, eczema, burns, dermatitis, sports injuries, injuries arising from surgical procedures and injuries arising from dental procedures.

28. (New) A method for the prophylaxis and treatment of pain, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1.

29. (New) A method for the prophylaxis and treatment of arthritis, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1.

30. (New) A method for the prophylaxis and treatment of conditions involving inflammatory processes, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1, wherein said conditions involving inflammatory processes are selected from the group consisting of asthma, allergic rhinitis, respiratory distress syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, gastritis, irritable bowel syndrome, ulcerative colitis, vascular disease, migraine, periarteritis nodosa, thyroiditis, aplastic anemia, Hodgkin's disease, sclerodoma, type I diabetes, myasthenia gravis, multiple sclerosis, sarcoidosis, nephrotic syndrome, Bechet's syndrome, polymyositis, gingivitis, conjunctivitis and myocardial ischemia.

31. (New) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of cognitive disorders, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1.

32. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein said cognitive disorders are selected from the group consisting of degenerative dementia, senile dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Pick's disease, Huntington's chorea, Parkinson's disease, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, vascular dementia, multi-infarct dementia, dementia associated with intracranial space occupying lesions, trauma, infections, metabolism, toxins, anoxia, and vitamin deficiency; and mild cognitive impairment associated with aging.

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